

Whitmer family came from the state of New York and stopped in our settlement. On the 2nd day of May, 1832, we started for Zion in Jackson county, Mo., and eventually settled in Independence.

We were living there when the mob gathered under Col. Picher, and they met our brethren under Lyman Wight; our brethren gave up their arms and agreed to leave the county. I saw L. W. Boggs with bludgeon on his shoulder in the ranks of the mob; he was lieutenant governor at the time.

Your brother in the Gospel,  
HORACE B. OWENS.

### THE REFERENDUM.

SALT LAKE CITY, March 12, 1895.

Your editorial on "The Referendum" in last evening's NEWS has been read with great interest; and inasmuch as I have had the opportunity for a number of years, to observe the practical workings as well as the results of "the referendum" I desire to add a few words in support of the institution, not only in town and city, but also in state governments.

It is more apparent every day that a closer union between the legislative bodies and the people whom they represent should in some way be effected in order that the will of the people may be more fully respected by those whom they have chosen to serve them. True, the right of petition is granted to the people, but it does not always follow that petitions receive that careful consideration to which they are entitled. Legislation is too often the result of powers of combination and money, and that disgraceful machine known as "the lobby" has often been more powerful in the enacting of laws than the will and wishes of the people. Through "the referendum" will the laws which have been framed by the representatives be referred back to the people for their acceptance or rejection. This can have but a beneficial influence upon legislatures and people, and serve at the same time as an important factor in education.

You very truly refer to the fact that this great principle of more direct legislation was known to and in usage among the ancient inhabitants of this continent centuries ago. Permit me to show that this great privilege was also enjoyed by the founders of our nation. W. D. McCrackan, in his "Swiss Solutions of American Problems" says: "The referendum as a separate institution seems to have existed at the very dawn of our national history, although unnamed and unnoticed by students of comparative politics. The articles of union framed by the united colonies of New England in 1643 were referred to the approval of the inhabitants. Under the Rhode Island colonial constitution as early as 1680 the fundamental law required that all laws passed by the general assembly should be submitted to the people, and the law, after stating this provision, continues: \* \* \* As also we further enact that it appearing by the returns of the votes that the majority of the free inhabitants of this colony have disapproved or disannulled any such law or laws, then the said law or laws to be of no force, although any one

town or other should be wholly silent." This law was in operation seventeen years, until superseded by a royal charter."

From that day to this the principle of the referendum has been in use in one form or another in the different states of our Union and in accordance therewith the enabling act under which we are now privileged to draft the Constitution for the State of Utah provides that the same shall be submitted to the people for approval or rejection.

Together with the referendum should be found its natural twin sister "the initiative," or the right of a certain number of legal voters to propose laws or initiate measures themselves through the medium of the governed. Here again Mr. McCrackan says: "The right of the initiative, it must be remembered, is not only the privilege of petition enjoyed by the inhabitants of every state which makes any pretensions whatever to political liberty. It is a constitutional demand, not an irregular request."

All political parties are, or should be, alike interested in the measures herein mentioned inasmuch as they tend to more direct legislation.

THEO. BRANDLEY.

### NOTES FROM MORGAN.

The Young Men's conference of Morgan Stake was held in Morgan City March 10, 1895, Superintendent W. G. Brough presiding. On the stand were the M. I. A. officers of ward and Stake, the Stake presidency, also Angus Wright, of Weber Stake, and M. Lindsay, of Ogden.

Two well attended meetings were held. Lectures were given by members of the different associations on the following subjects: Theology, New Testament; science, Church history, and civil government, by John Porter, Moroni Heiner, Albert Wild, Henry Fry, John Wood and John Mortenson, respectively, each delivering his lecture with great credit. Some very excellent and timely remarks and counsel were given by Elders Wright and Lindsay, also by Elder Fry of the Stake presidency. The general superintendency were presented and sustained, also the Stake superintendency. Beautiful singing was rendered by the South Morgan choir. It was a time of instruction and rejoicing to the young and old of Morgan county.

ROSSELL M. HEINER, Secy.

At the last Quarterly conference of Morgan Stake Elder F. M. Lyman discovered the fact that Bishop J. K. Hall was holding positions which were incompatible (a Bishop of a ward and Stake superintendent of Sunday schools.) Brother Hall being made acquainted with the fact, at once sent in his resignation as Stake superintendent of Sunday schools, which was accepted and Elder F. W. Clark was selected to fill the vacancy.

Superintendent Hall has held this position for over twenty years, during which he has, through his ability, zeal and enthusiasm, won the respect, confidence and love of the Saints of Morgan Stake. The Sunday school workers, to do honor and respect to him, and to James R. Stuart, his first assistant, whose official labors likewise

subsided on account of holding offices which were incompatible, held a grand banquet in the Simmons hall on the evening of March 10, which was largely attended by the Stake and ward authorities, as well as by those who were actively engaged in the Sunday school cause, and their relatives and numerous friends. After the opening exercises, consisting of singing by the South Morgan choir and congregation, under the leadership of Prof. James R. Rawie, and prayer by Elder R. Fry, appropriate speeches interspersed with songs and recitations were rendered by some of those most talented in the Stake. In behalf of the Sunday School Union, Elder W. G. Brough delivered an address of respect, and presented Suit Hall with a handsome gold-headed cane, with his name, position and time of holding the same, engraved in gold; and Assistant James R. Stuart with a finely finished umbrella; which was followed by speeches of appreciation by Elders Hall and Stuart, and a poem written for the occasion by E. A. Richards and read by him.

After an excellent supper, which was heartily engaged by all, a social dance was participated in by young and old, who enjoyed themselves exceedingly until the midnight hour, when the entertainment was brought to a close by prayer by Elder W. G. Smith.

W. W. FRANCIS,  
Secretary of S. S. Union.

### THE WOMEN'S COUNCIL.

Mrs. E. B. Wells arrived home Thursday morning from the East, after an absence of seven weeks. She was selected one of the delegates to represent Utah at the Woman's Convention at Atlanta, Georgia, and in the National Council of Women at Washington, D. C. She left this city January 28th, in company with Mrs. Marilla Daniels, of Provo, and Mrs. Aurelia B. Rogers, of Farmington.

They arrived at Atlanta on January 30th. The convention opened the next day, and lasted five days. The ladies from Utah were entitled to fifteen votes. They were given a good representation on the committees, Mrs. Wells being placed on the committee of five on plan of work; on the executive committee were Mrs. Wells, and Mrs. Daniels, while Mrs. Rogers was a member of the resolutions committee. Utah was prepared by Mrs. Wells, who was the only one who had the privilege of speaking.

The convention was held in De Guiver's opera house, which holds about as many people as the Salt Lake Theater, and there was always a full house, a great deal of enthusiasm being manifested. Considerable money was raised to prosecute the work in hand. The people of Atlanta are said to be a fine looking and intelligent class of people.

During the convention a reception was given the members by one of the wealthiest women in Atlanta, and another was given by the association to the women of Atlanta.

On Feb. 5th the Utah ladies paid a visit to the lady board of managers of the Cotton States exposition, and Mrs. Wells, who is commissioner of literature of the exposition for Utah, ad-